



**CALIFORNIA
CHILD WELFARE COUNCIL**
Office of Youth and Community Restoration (OYCR)
Committee
Wednesday, May 4, 2022 – 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM
Meeting Minutes

1. **Call to Order:** Introduction of New Members; Roll call; Announcements

Chair Lucero convened the Committee meeting. The Chair thanked the Board of State and Community Corrections for hosting the meeting, introduced new members Danielle Lowe, Chris Sanders, and the Hon. Patrick Tondreau. Staff provided instructions to Committee members and for public comment.

2. **Action Item:** Approve Minutes from March 29, 2022, Meeting

There were no corrections to the minutes and they were approved as distributed.

3. **Information Item:** Updates from the Office of Youth and Community Restoration; Introduction of new staff.

The Chair reminded the Committee of the shared aspirations and of the rich diversity of experience represented in the Committee. The Chair introduced new OYCR staff Alani Jackson, Austin Dickman, and Ramon Leija. Austin and Ramon introduced themselves.

4. **Information Item:** Council on Criminal Justice and Behavioral Health Juvenile Justice Toolkit and Compendium Project Update; Discussion

Emily Grichuhin of the Council on Criminal Justice and Behavioral Health, California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation gave a PowerPoint update on the contract for the Compendium project, providing background on CCJBH, the Compendium and Toolkit, and the award of the contract. Member Miguel Garcia asked about the purpose of the toolkit, and Ms. Grichuhin explained that it is a resource for counties to support their realigned population. Member Sue Burrell asked if the toolkit is to support all youth or just realigned youth. Ms. Grichuhin indicated that the target was the population with behavioral health issues and high needs, and in particular the realigned population. Member Frankie Guzman asked about whether the toolkit would

include practices carried out by community based organizations as opposed to practices in clinical contracts. Ms. Grichuin indicated that this would be discussed with the contractor. There was no public comment.

5. **Presentation/Discussion: Positive Youth Outcomes**

The Chair introduced Professor Philip Harris, Associate Professor Emeritus of Criminal Justice, Temple University, who gave a PowerPoint presentation on positive youth development. The presentation gave an overview of adolescent development and the implications for how youth are motivated during the adolescent period and how to facilitate a positive change in their lives. The presentation also traced the history of how youth were treated by the delinquency and criminal justice system over the past two centuries. Member Rosalinda Vint commented that the presentation was an important reminder that we need to see youth for where they are at and not where they have been. Member Guzman asked about the concept of rehabilitation and whether that makes sense for a person who is in development; rehabilitation means to restore someone to their original condition, but for someone in their development, this would mean restoring them to their original condition of infancy which does not make sense. Professor Harris responded that the concept of rehabilitation has a lot of different meanings in psychotherapy, cognitive behavioral therapy, and juvenile justice agencies, and that the methods are starting to shift and can be applied to a lot of different types of interventions. A member of the public had questions about county approaches to promote community collaborations and what supports the California Health and Human Services Agency provides to local community-based nonprofits and organizations. The Chair suggested that that question would appropriately be submitted for an email response so the member of the public can get a developed answer. Professor Harris added that collaboration with the community and community partnerships is essential. The Chair added that there are numerous collaborations represented in the county plans submitted to OYCR. Another member of the public from Manhood ABC commented that he agreed with the approach of the presentation and thanked the professor. A committee member asked whether the Chair was seeing the types of programs and collaborations in the presentation across California in the plans, and the Chair responded that many counties do have such collaborations and that others have asked for technical assistance.

6. **Action Item:** Committee Member selection of OYCR Committee priority preferences among those identified during the March 29, 2022, meeting

The Chair reminded the Committee of the brainstorm session identifying topics for focus and explained the process of identifying the topics to be voted on. Member Tondreau suggested that the ombudsperson should also be a topic. OYCR Counsel indicated that the ombudsperson would be covered through presentations by OYCR of the unit and that his contributions would be welcome in that context. Member Leventer emphasized that stepdown programs are a key issue in counties. Member Garcia indicated a preference for stepdowns/alternatives to incarceration, higher education and job training, and community based organizations. Member Belton asked for clarification about which topic would cover youth being served in their communities. The Chair indicated that each topic would be further defined after selection. Member Richart stated

that given OYCR's placement within the health agency, there should be a focus on assisting youth back into community using the health expertise. Member Prince agreed that reentry was a critical focus and that it is important to focus on returning youth to their communities and helping them successfully transition. Member Burrell expressed her preference for the topic of stepdowns and alternatives to incarceration because of the immediate need to think about not keeping youth in juvenile halls for long periods because they are not healthy places. She also indicated a preference for the topics of facilities and community based organizations. Member Vint noted that the mental health component is critical and expressed a preference for sources of support. She also voted for step down and alternatives to incarceration because of important issues around youth homelessness, especially for crossover foster youth. Chief Richart supported the reentry topic and noted that it ties directly to CalAIM which is a large undertaking within the health agency and is tied to local supports that will drive the success of reentry. Member Strother supported the local support topic as well as higher education and job training, with an emphasis on mentoring. Member Calvin wanted to focus on alternatives to incarceration in light of the use of juvenile facilities that were not designed for long-term stays. A member of the public expressed a preference for alternatives to incarceration and stepdowns, along with community based organizations and reentry which she suggested be combined into one category. She also suggested that there should be a more active partnership with the educational system.

The Chair called for a vote on preference for the 9 topics, allowing each member to choose 3 topics from among the following:

1. Facilities
2. Step Downs/Alternatives to incarceration
3. Sources of local support
4. Community-based organizations
5. Conflict resolution in facilities
6. Eliminating racial and ethnic disparities
7. Higher Education/Job training
8. Reentry
9. Mentoring /credible messengers

Each member voted:

- Becton: 2,6,7
- Belton: 2,4,6
- Burrell: 1,2,4
- Calvin: 2,4,7
- Dierkhising: not present
- Garcia: 2,4,7
- Guzman: 1,2,4
- Hood: 2,6,8
- Leventer: 2,7,9
- Lowe: 2,4,7
- Lucero: 2,3,8
- Prince: 2,7,8
- Richart: 3,7,8
- Sanders: 2,6,8

- Strother: 3,7,8
- Tondreau: 2,4,9
- Vernon: 3,7,8
- Vint: 2,3,4

The three topics selected were: Step Downs/Alternatives to incarceration (2), community-based organizations (4), and higher education/job training (7).

7. **Presentation/Discussion:** Proposal for meeting schedule and approach to work on the priority preferences selected by the Committee.

OYCR Counsel reminded the Committee of the rules regarding the quorum and the schedule and process for subsequent meetings, including quarterly meetings and learning opportunities.

8. **Adjourn**

There was no further comment from Committee members or members of the public. The Chair thanked all for their participation and adjourned the meeting.